appointed by RBI in September, 1992 dealt only with the subject of credit and interest rate structure for exports.

**Non-availability of essential items to weaker sections**

*89. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the total failure of the public distribution system in the country particularly in the jhuggi jhonpari areas where essential items are not being provided to the weaker sections; and

(b) if, so what steps are being taken to ensure that controlled items are not sold in black market?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) It would be incorrect to say that the Public Distribution System in the country has failed particularly in jhuggi jhonpari areas. The Central Government is responsible for the procurement, storage and transportation of PDS commodities and for allocation to State Governments who are responsible for the actual distribution to the consumers through the network of fair price shops. A total quantity of 14.41 million tonnes of wheat and rice were lifted by States/UTs during April, 1992 to January, 1993 for distribution through PDS, apart from sugar, kerosene and edible oil. In an operation of such a vast magnitude, some shortcomings here and there cannot be ruled out, altogether. However the strengthening and streamlining of the PDS is a continuous process. State Governments have been delegated powers under the Essential Commodities Act for proper and effective implementation, to curb unfair trade practices and to prevent diversion of PDS commodities into open market. Officers of the State Governments/UT Administrations undertake checks and surprise visits to oversee the supply and distribution of PDS commodities to consumers.

**Redeployment of surplus workers in CIL**

*90. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV 'RAVI': Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has chalked out a scheme for making optimum use of the manpower available with the Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Coal India Limited has worked out the number of the surplus workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have prepared any action plan regarding redeployment of surplus workers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA):(a) to (f) Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiary companies have a system of preparation of annual manpower budget for all establishments right from the collieries/ projects to Areas and Company Headquarters. The system facilitates designation-wise, category-wise and skill-wise enumeration of manpower and its proper deployment according to the requirements of different units/ establishments. Efforts are made to re-deploy the surplus manpower both horizontally and vertically from surplus areas to deficit areas on a continuing basis after imparting specified training/ retraining in identified skills, where necessary. Ministry of Coal monitors the follow-up based on manpower budgeting including re-deployment of surplus workers. According to information furnished by CIL the number of identified surplus manpower in CIL as on 1st November, 1992 was 14,920.